

California Department of Food & Agriculture

Minutes

of the Joint Meeting of the Pierce's Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board
and Pierce's Disease Advisory Task Force

Held on Thursday and Friday, November 1 and 2, 2007
in Sonoma, California

PD/GWSS BOARD

Members Present

Greg Coleman
Edgar "Pete" Downs
Ben Drake
Hugh (Wally) Ewart
Drew Johnson

Bradford Lange
Frank Leeds
Steve McIntyre
Dana Merrill
Al Rossini

Steve Schafer
Herb Schmidt
Jim Unti

Members Absent

Kevin Andrew

Dennis Atkinson

PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Members Present

George Bruening
Ben Drake
David House
Scott Hudson

Nancy Irelan
Drew Johnson
Steve Nation
Judy Stewart-Leslie

Beth Stone-Smith
Craig Weaver
David Whitmer

Members Absent

Kevin Andrew
Ted Batkin
Larry Bezark
Nat DiBuduo

Joe MacIlvaine
Richard Mounts
Corky Roche
John Snyder

Robert Wample
David Wineman

OTHER ATTENDEES

Alan Bennett
Adam Bogdanove
Robin Bollinger
Dan Curtin
Michael Davis
Tom Esser
Mike Falasco
Ken Freeze

Nick Frey
Roger Innes
Kyle Jensen
Stephen Johnson
Jim Knighton
Priscilla Lane
Eric Lauritzen
Janet LeMasters
Mike Miller

David Morgan
Greg Morris
Kari Morrow
Rohan Patel
Roger Spencer
Nick Toscano
Bob Wynn
Rosie Yacoub

CALL TO ORDER

PD/GWSS Board Chairperson Ben Drake called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Ben Drake also served as the Acting PD Advisory Task Force Chairperson.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bob Wynn conducted the roll call for the PD/GWSS Board and the PD Advisory Task Force. Quorums were present for both groups. Self-introductions followed for others in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robin Bollinger, a representative of Therma Pest Control, LAZOTPCGLOBAL, addressed the Board and Task Force regarding a product his company manufactures.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Chairperson Ben Drake welcomed attendees to the meeting.

Bob Wynn introduced Stephen Johnson, the Assistant Regional Director, USDA Western Region office, based in Colorado. He also introduced three attending members of the Research Scientific Advisory Panel (RSAP) – Drs. Adam Bogdanove, Michael Davis, and Roger Innes. Three RSAP members unable to attend were Drs. Greg Loeb, George Sundin, and Dan Sumner. He commended them for volunteering their valued time, expertise and experience, acknowledged all their hard work, and said they did a great job working with Nancy Ireland on their report.

Bob also acknowledged Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner Lisa Correia who was unable to attend the meeting due to pending issues at the office. He commended her and other commissioners for their influence and environmental perspectives in agriculture.

Bob gave an update on various pest issues, highlighting the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM). He said that numerous court filings have been made to halt the aerial treatments for LBAM. Boards of Supervisors, Secretary Kawamura, and the Director of the Department of Pesticide Regulation have all worked tirelessly and deserve credit for being on the front lines, meeting with concerned citizens and attending public meetings.

Bob also noted that there were four ongoing Medfly eradication programs – one in Dixon (Solano County), two in Los Angeles County, and one in San Jose (Santa Clara County). CDFA has also been battling Oriental fruit fly and Japanese beetle these past few months. Bob mentioned there was a coalition of various industry representatives, including Karen Ross, Kathleen Nave, and Barry Bedwell, focusing on invasive pests.

The members discussed organizing a trip to Washington, D.C. to meet with Congressional appropriators on funding issues for PD/GWSS. CDFA would be looking at dates in the next couple of months.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Ben Drake asked the Board and Task Force members to review and vote on the minutes from the previous two meetings (held April 23 and June 28, 2007).

- ❖ It was moved by Pete Downs, seconded by Steve McIntyre, and passed unanimously by the PD/GWSS Board and PD Advisory Task Force to approve the minutes of the meetings held in Sacramento on April 23 and June 28, 2007.

NEXT MEETING

The next Joint PD/GWSS Board and Advisory Task Force meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 29, 2008, in Sacramento at CDFA headquarters, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Members were also reminded that the upcoming Pierce's Disease Research Symposium was scheduled for December 12-14, 2007, in San Diego at the Westin Horton Plaza Hotel.

BOARD AND ADVISORY TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

Bob Wynn welcomed and introduced new Board member Steve Schafer of Schafer Farms in Madera. Bob also introduced Dr. George Bruening with the University of California at Davis, a new member of

the Task Force. He said that Nat DiBuduo, President of Allied Grape Growers, had also been appointed to the Task Force.

FISCAL UPDATE

Kari Morrow provided an update on the PDCP State Program's budget, the Board's Revenues and Expenditures Summary, and the Federal FY 2008 Funding Report.

RESEARCH PROGRAM UPDATE

Review of RSAP Final Report. Nancy Irelan discussed the formation and work of the Research Scientific Advisory Panel (RSAP). Roger Innes, the Chairperson of the RSAP, then discussed the RSAP's final report, which was released in August 2007. The report provides an overview of PD/GWSS research funding, identified areas of significant progress, areas to target going forward, and gaps in research, and provided recommendations on targeting and funding future research, evaluating potential hurdles, and communicating research progress.

Research RFP Update. Tom Esser reported on the 2008-09 joint CDFA-UC PD/GWSS Request for Proposal. He discussed the timeline, review process, and changes from last year's RFP. Steve Nation discussed the outlook for receiving funding this year for the UC Pierce's Disease Research Grant Program from the USDA Cooperative State Research Extension and Educational Service. There was discussion about submission of progress reports online, so that information on recent progress is more readily available to other researchers. CDFA and PIPRA will work on that.

2007 PD Research Symposium Update. Tom Esser reported that the 2007 PD Research Symposium would be held at the Westin Horton Plaza Hotel in San Diego on December 12-14, 2007. This year the program would include two sessions for roundtable discussions. George Bruening discussed the format and purpose of the sessions. A vineyard and winery tour was also being considered.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION UPDATE & RFP

Roger Spencer congratulated Brown Miller Communications, Inc. for achieving a major milestone--20 years of business. Roger said the Brown Miller contract was due to expire on February 28, 2008. A Request for Proposal for a new contract is in progress and a new contract should be in place by late March or early April 2008.

Ken Freeze of Brown Miller talked about recent outreach activities. These included a field day in Temecula to highlight progress in managing PD and GWSS in that area, development and distribution of handouts, publicizing the 2007 PD Research Symposium, use of "E-Blasts," the PD Internet Forum, and attendance at trade shows like CAPCA, Napa Expo, and wine shows in Lodi and Sonoma.

AREAWIDE PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Beth provided an update on the areawide sites for Kern, Tulare, and Riverside (Temecula and Coachella) counties. Numbers of trapped GWSS in general were higher. The Northern Zone and General Beale are still considered problem areas. Beth said that FY08 budget projections would not support a continued areawide program in Ventura County due to a number of issues (lack of grower participation, ineffective treatment regime).

PROGRAM'S LEGISLATIVE SUNSET DATES

Bob Wynn reported that the enabling statutes for the Board, Task Force, and statewide PDCP Program were due to sunset in March 2011. Planning for extending the law beyond that date, if desired, should begin in 2009.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO C.G. SECTION 11126

Not held.

RECONVENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

N/A.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned for the day at 4:40 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2007

RECONVENING OF MEETING

Board Chairperson and Acting Task Force Chairperson Ben Drake reconvened the meeting on Friday, November 2 at 8:30 am.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bob Wynn conducted roll call. A quorum was present for the Board but not the Task Force.

PIPRA UPDATE

Alan Bennett reported on PIPRA's (Public Intellectual Property Resource for Agriculture) activities. He discussed the PD literature and intellectual property (IP) database and the impact database. He then talked about the IP and technology evaluation PIPRA conducted on a Board-funded research project dealing with diffusible signal factor (DSF).

NURSERY PILOT PROGRAM AND APPROVED TREATMENT IMPLEMENTATION

David House, Chairperson of the Nursery Subcommittee, stated they had formed an ad hoc committee for developing a standardized treatment protocol certification program that meets the interests of all stakeholders. The committee has produced a final draft of the proposal, titled "Proposed Nursery Stock Treatment Protocol." This was given to the PD/GWSS Science Advisory Panel (SAP) for its review and recommendations. Another document the ad hoc committee compiled is "Best Management Practices for a GWSS Pest Management Plan," which outlines the management practices a nursery must follow to participate in the approved treatment program.

Greg Morris discussed the specifics of the approved treatment protocol. These include compliance agreements, the GWSS pest management plan, recordkeeping, treatment and safeguarding, certification, notification, training, origin and destination inspection authority, and enforcement actions. Greg also provided the latest statistics for the nursery regulatory program and the pilot program. There have been approximately 60,000 nursery shipments this year from GWSS-infested areas, with 99.93% completely free of GWSS. For the pilot program, there have been 28 shipments so far this year. Out of 106 egg masses, 58 were dead, 42 were parasitized, and six died upon emergence. To date, there has been no viable emergence of GWSS.

The Board and Task Force indicated they would like to review the SAP recommendations and then discuss and vote on the approved treatment protocol at the January 29, 2008 meeting.

PIERCE'S DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM UPDATE

Bulk Citrus: Roger Spencer reported the bulk citrus program was very successful this year, with only seven shipments found with GWSS, compared to 170 back in 2001-02.

Rapid Response: Roger reported on the rapid response activities being conducted in the five counties with small incipient infestations (Fresno, Sacramento, Santa Clara, Solano, and Tulare). Activities consisted of trapping, treatment, and in some locations release of biological control agents. He said the infestation in Vacaville, Solano County is close to being declared eradicated. In Sacramento County, no new finds occurred in Rancho Cordova, but there was an increase in finds in the Foothill Farms area.

Biocontrol Update: David Morgan reported on the progress of the biocontrol program. There are currently six species being released. Releases have been made in 12 counties. David said he continues to work closely with cooperators at the various agent release sites. He noted that this has been a very good year, with a number of colonies surviving through the winter and into the spring.

EIR: Tom Esser provided a brief update on the EIR lawsuit. A Request for Proposal for an Environmental Consultant to prepare the necessary environmental documents was issued in August 2007. The submitted bids are currently being evaluated.

OTHER ITEMS

Chairperson Ben Drake mentioned that new officers should be elected at the next meeting. Pete Downs and Brad Lange were selected to be on the Nominating Committee. They would present their recommendations at the January 29, 2008 meeting.

Jim Knighton, President of AvidBiotics Corporation and owner of Knighton Vineyards, described various technologies currently under development that may prove useful in finding solutions to Pierce's disease.

Stephen Johnson of the USDA announced that Dr. Richard (Ric) Dunkle, Deputy Administrator of USDA Plant Protection & Quarantine, is retiring in January 2008.

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Ben Drake adjourned the Joint Board and Task Force meeting at 11:15 a.m. on Friday, November 2, 2007.